

## OPINION 1637

### *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901 (Arachnida, Araneae): given precedence over *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892

#### Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901 is hereby given precedence over *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901 (gender: neuter), type species by original designation *Eurypelma seemanni* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;

(b) *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Homoeomma texense* Simon, 1892, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *seemanni* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897, as published in the binomen *Eurypelma seemanni* (specific name of the type species of *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901);

(b) *texense* Simon, 1892, as published in the binomen *Homoeomma texense* (specific name of the type species of *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892).

#### History of Case 2662

An application to give the generic name *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901 precedence over *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892 was received from Professors H.W. Levi (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) and O. Kraus (*Zoologisches Institut und Museum, Hamburg, Germany*) on 29 April 1988. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 46: 165–166 (September 1989). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Dr Edwin E. Minch (*Mesa, Arizona, U.S.A.*), Mr Carlos E. Valerio (*Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica*), Dr Frederick A. Coyle (*Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, U.S.A.*) and Mr Pablo A. Goloboff (*Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires, Argentina*) were published in BZN 46: 189–190 (September 1989). A note of four further comments in support, from Drs J.C. Cokendolpher (*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, U.S.A.*), B.Y. Main (*University of Western Australia, Perth*), D. Ubick (*California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, U.S.A.*) and T. Yaginuma (*Osaka, Japan*), was published in BZN 47: 127 (June 1990). A further supportive comment from Mr Vincent D. Roth (*Portal, Arizona, U.S.A.*) was noted on the voting paper.

Comments in opposition from Mr Rick C. West (*Victoria, B.C., Canada*) and Dr R.J. Raven (*Queensland Museum, South Brisbane, Australia*) were published in BZN 46: 190 (September 1989) and BZN 47: 126–127 (June 1990) respectively. A reply by the

authors of the application to Dr Raven's opposition was published in BZN 47: 211 (September 1990).

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1990 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals in BZN 46: 166. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1991 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 19: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Savage, Schuster, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uëno, Willink

Negative votes — 9: Dupuis, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Mroczkowski, Nye, Ride and Starobogatov.

Kabata commented: 'I vote against these proposals because I believe in the necessity of upholding the Principle of Priority as the cornerstone of nomenclatural stability, unless there are compelling reasons for setting it aside. I see no such reasons here'. Lehtinen said that he agreed with Dr Raven's comments (BZN 47: 126). Ride considered that the name *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892 could be suppressed. However, in correspondence the applicants and others had specifically indicated that *Rhechostica* should remain available since its synonymy with *Aphonopelma* (and other nominal genera) was not settled.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (7)8(48): 553.

*Rhechostica* Simon, 1892, *Histoire Naturelle des Araignées*, Ed. 2, part 1, p. 162.

*seemanni*, *Eurypelma*, F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897, *Biologia Centrali-Americana, Zoologia*, vol. 2, p. 26.

*texense*, *Homoeomma*, Simon, 1892, *Actes de la Société Linnéenne de Bordeaux*, (5)4: 320.